

The CKDU-FM story:

by A.D. Wright

The referendum on the fate of CKDU, Dalhousie's student radio station, will be held 22-23 November.

At the 9 November Student Council session, final details on the referendum were worked out. An earlier meeting on CKDU failed to meet quorum, the minimum attendance figure. The question reads:

Do you approve of the Union providing an FM Campus-Community radio at Dalhousie in accordance with the Union CKDU Committee Report of 27 October 1983, resulting in an increase of the Union fee by \$6.47 for full-time students and by \$1.49 per course for part-time students?
Yes or No

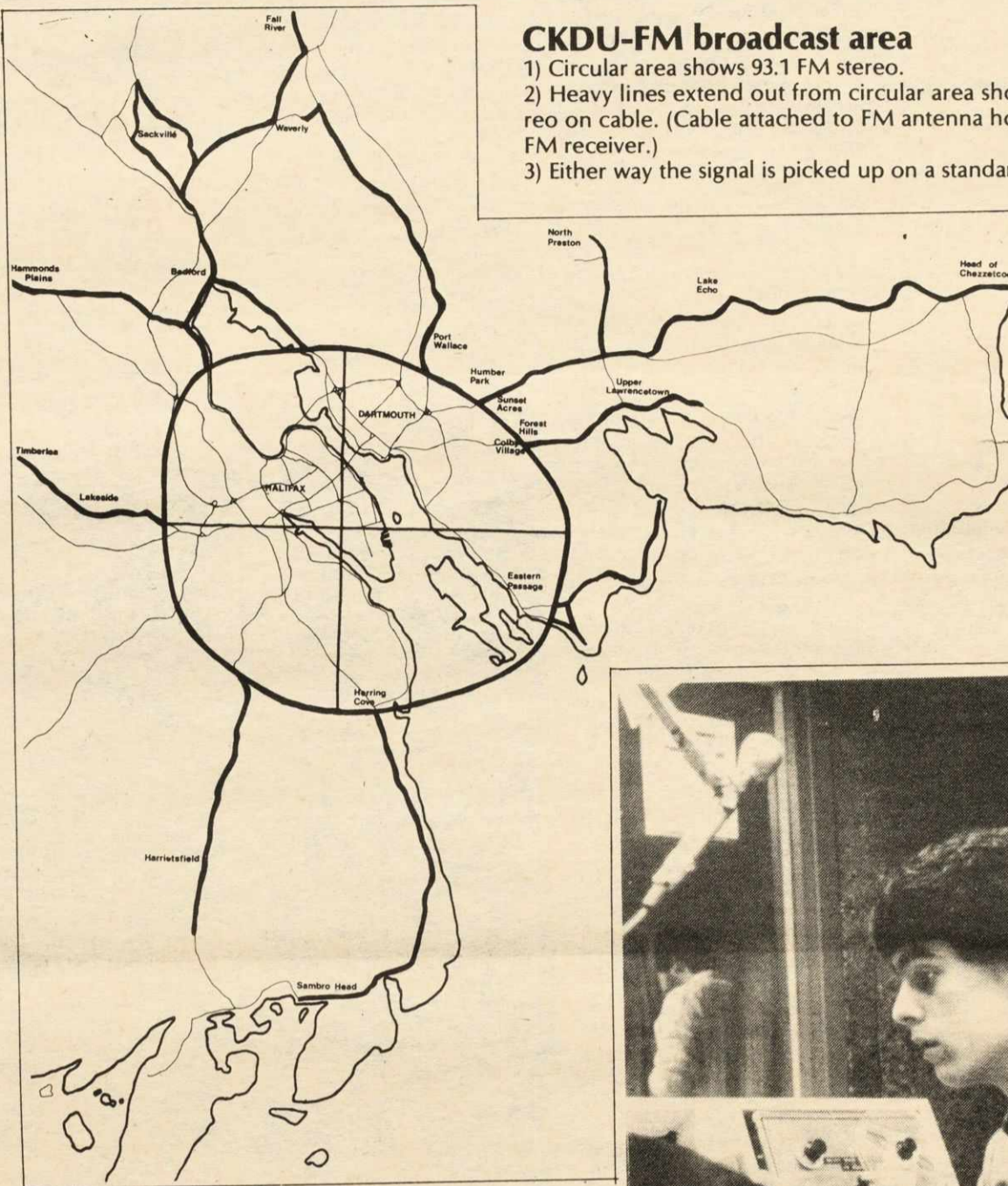
If CKDU gets the fifty plus one % majority needed to win the referendum, they plan to mount a 30-foot antenna on the Physical Plant building roof to broadcast a 50 watt FM stereo signal. In addition to an 8.5 km (5.4 mi) broadcasting range, the three Metro cable TV companies intend to carry the signal.

The first obstacle to all of this is the referendum itself. Sixteen ballot boxes will be used; one in every major Dalhousie building. CKDU station manager Keith Tufts says, "The higher the voter turnout, the more likely a CKDU victory."

The second obstacle is the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the government body responsible for issuing frequencies and regulating content. An initial application was submitted to the CRTC on 3 March 1983, and included a promise of performance. Combined, the two documents form a mass of paper four inches thick. The CRTC acknowledged the application was complete but student council then decided the matter should be settled by a student vote, and the application was pulled.

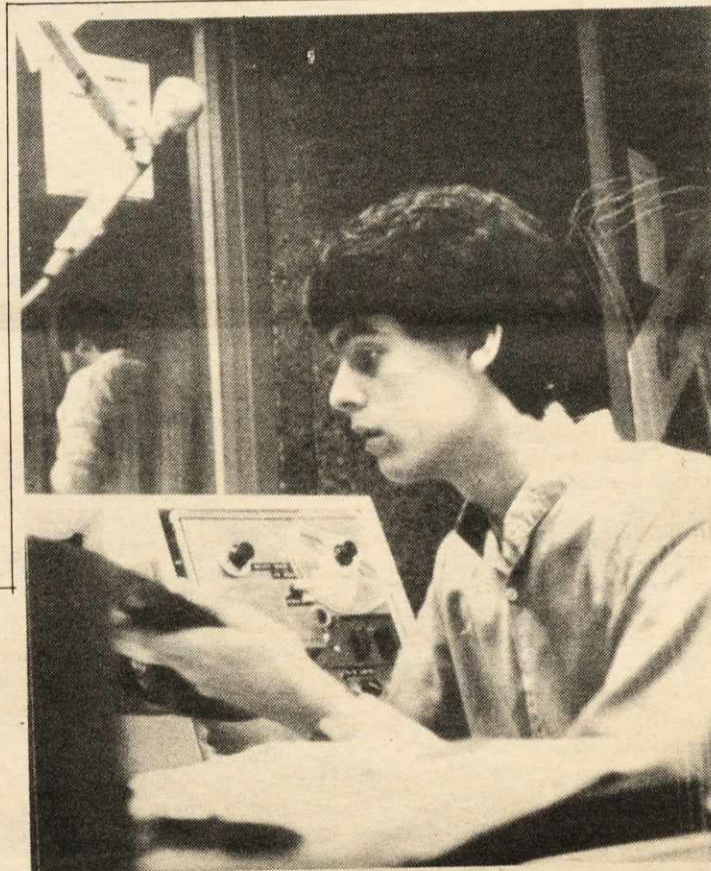
In the event of a yes vote, CKDU will re-submit the application in January of 1984, with approval likely to arrive in March. Of sixteen campus FM radio stations currently operating in Canada, only CKUM, the station at Université de Moncton, had to reapply to the CRTC, because its intended programming duplicated existing services. This was contrary to the CRTC's wishes.

Programming is the key difference between CKDU and CKDU-FM. Since it cannot duplicate the programming of any Halifax station, CKDU will have to cover



CKDU-FM broadcast area

- 1) Circular area shows 93.1 FM stereo.
- 2) Heavy lines extend out from circular area show 93.1 FM stereo on cable. (Cable attached to FM antenna hook-up on your FM receiver.)
- 3) Either way the signal is picked up on a standard FM receiver.



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ground missed by all of them.

Surveys show there are 96,000 potential listeners in Metro. The new station will have to grab and hold listeners—to hit an untouched audience and make them stay.

"It's going to be radio as it should be," said Station Manager Keith Tufts. Pointing to a SUB ceiling speaker, he said, "This system isn't."

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